

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Summary:

The Purpose for the creation of Jamaat Ahmadiyya. Extracts from the Promised Messiah's Pamphlets. The ten conditions of the oath of allegiance (*bay'at*)

We are in the month of January and I was thinking of an important event that happened during the life of the Promised Messiah about which I could remind our members. So I thought about the conditions of *bay'at* about which we have so often talked about and which were first published in a pamphlet on January 12th 1889. Since these conditions of *bay'at* are so important for each one amongst us to remember and to follow, it helps that we are reminded of them from time to time so that we might become quite familiar with them. These conditions of *bay'at* are an essence of the teachings of Islam that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) distilled for Ahmadis to follow if they really want to save their soul.

At first Hazrat Masih Maood (as) was not at all eager to accept allegiance from anyone. He said that he had not received permission from Allah to do so. He was quite well known amongst the Muslims in India through his book "Buraheen Ahmadiyya" which he had published in four volumes between 1880 and 1884. Some learned people like Sufi Ahmad Jaan and Hazrat Molvi Nuruddin (ra) understood the depth of his learning through these books and Sufi Ahmad Jaan even asked him to be the people's Messiah and he wanted to make an oath of fealty with him but Hazrat Masih(as) replied that he had not yet received permission from Allah to do so. But eventually that permission came in early 1888. But Hazrat Ahmad(as) would make the announcement for *bay'at* in the early 1889. Hazrat Ahmad was not at that time looking for numbers to swell his Jamaat. He was looking for people who would be ready and eager to transform themselves from leading a life of sin to living a life devoted to Allah. He explained the purpose of his Jamaat in another pamphlet which he wrote on 4th March 1889. He said among other things:

“God desires to found a community of the faithful to manifest His Glory and Power. He will make the Community grow and prosper, to establish the love of God, righteousness, purity, piety, peace and goodwill among men. This shall be a group of persons devoted to God. He shall strengthen them with His own spirit, and bless them and purify them. He shall multiply them exceedingly as He has promised. Thousands of truthful people shall join His ranks. He shall Himself look after them and shall make the Community grow~ so much so that its numbers and progress shall amaze the world. The Community shall be a lighthouse so high as to illumine the four corners of the world. The members thereof shall serve as models of Islamic blessings. My true followers shall excel every other people. There shall always rise among them, till the Judgment Day, personages who will be the chosen ones of God in every respect. So has the Almighty decreed. He does as He wills.”

Mark these words well my friends. This community should have as its distinctive characteristic “to establish the love of God, righteousness, purity, piety, peace and goodwill among men. This shall be a group of persons devoted to God.” These will be a people who for God’s sake will not indulge in petty squabbles, who for God’s sake will leave aside personal differences of opinion, who would understand that for God’s sake they should do their best not to harm anyone with neither words nor action. These are the people who would be concerned with establishing “righteousness, purity and peace and goodwill among the people.”

So wherever we see that such noble objectives are not being pursued, one should understand that the noble objectives for which this Jamaat was created are not being fulfilled. The people are not following the teachings of the Promised Messiah and Allah has to set this Jamaat on its proper tracks. That is most probably why Hazrat Masih said “There shall always rise among them, till the Judgment Day, personages who will be the chosen ones of God in every respect” And he said here “So has the Almighty decreed. He does as He wills.” So Allah does not have to ask any permission from any Khalifa when He wants to appoint someone within the Jamaat of the Promised Messiah for the reform (*islah*) of the members. Those who are in authority within the Jamaat may agree or not, to Allah it does not matter because “So has the Almighty decreed. He does as He wills.”

Speaking of people who opposed him in his days Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said: “O selfish divines and men of barren piety! Fie on you that you do not desire the opening of the heavenly doors and wish that they should remain closed forever so that you might maintain your positions of eminence. Look into your hearts and examine your conscience. Is your life free from the worship of the world? Do your hearts not suffer from the rust which involves you in darkness? Are you in any way different from the Pharisees and jurists who, in the time of the Messiah(as), were wholly given to self-love? Is it not true that thereby you are yourselves furnishing a parallel for the appearance of the like of Jesus (as) and are placing yourselves under the judgement of God Almighty? I tell you truly that it is easier for a nonbeliever to become a believer than it is for you to believe. Many will come from East and West who will partake of this bounty, but you will die in your condition of rust. I wish you would reflect.[**Izala-e-Auham, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 3, pp. 103-105**].

In this small extract there is plenty for mainstream Ahmadis to reflect.

Explaining his mission Hazrat Masih Maood (as) wrote:

“I inform you and convey to you the glad tidings that the Sailor, Who is the Lord of the heaven and the earth, has heard the supplication of those confronted with the tempest and has fulfilled the promise He made in His Holy Word to save His vessel at the time of the tempest. He has appointed one of His servants that is to say, this humble one who is now speaking to you, and has explained to him the devices to weather the storm and that would render it unnecessary to throw overboard the boxes of valuables. The time is near when heaven will call out: ‘O earth, swallow thy water, and O sky, cease *raining*.’ And the water was made to subside and the matter was ended. And *the Ark* came to rest on al-Judi. (Hud, 11:45)

But right now the flood is at its height. At the approach of this flood God Almighty appointed this humble one and commanded: “*wasna'il foulka be ayyoyena wa wahyena*” That is, build thou the Ark under Our eyes and according to Our directions. This Ark would be in no danger from the tempest. It would be supported by God's Hand. This then is the Ark of pure Islam to which I call the people to board. If you are awake , arise and board this Ark quickly for the flood is raging upon the earth and every life is in

danger.[A'ina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 5, pp. 261-262, footnote]

In a pamphlet he said:

“I convey another message to mankind in general and to my Muslim brethren in particular, that I have been commanded that those who seek the truth should enter into a covenant with me for learning the way of true faith and purity and love of God, and for discarding impure life, sloth and treachery. Therefore, it is incumbent upon those who find strength in their hearts to come to me; I shall be their comforter and shall try to lighten their burden. God Almighty will bless my prayers and my care for them provided they are ready with their heart and soul to fulfil His requirements. This is a Divine commandment which I have hereby conveyed. The relevant revelation in Arabic is as follows: *“iza azamta fatawaqqal alallah wasnail foulka be a'yoyena wa wahyena allazina yobaye'ounaka innama yobaye'ounallah yadoullaha fawqa aydihim”* meaning **“When thou hast determined a matter then trust in Allah and build the Ark under Our eyes and according to Our instructions. Those who enter into covenant with thee enter into a covenant with Allah. Allah's hand is above their hands [Sabz Ishtihar, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 2, p. 470]**

By the Grace of Allah similar words have been revealed by Allah to this humble one and this is what we are trying to do for the past 15 years.

Now let us look at these conditions of *bay'at*. Ahmadis should try their best to live these conditions in their daily lives. Then they would become that living example of the true teachings of Islam as was expected by the Promised Messiah (as).

Firstly, that up to the date of his death he shall abstain altogether from associating anything with Allah in his worship;

Secondly, that he shall keep away altogether from falsehood, adultery, gazing at women outside the prohibited degrees, cruelty, dishonesty, disorder, rebellion and every kind of evil; and shall not allow himself to be carried away by his passions, however strong they may be;

Thirdly, that he shall perform the five daily acts of worship, according to the divine command and the directions of the Holy Prophet, and shall try to the

best of his ability to offer the late night voluntary prayers to invoke the blessings of Allah upon the Holy Prophet, to ask forgiveness for his own sins and for supplicating Allah for His help; and that reminding himself of Allah's bounties, shall praise Him continuously;

Fourthly, that he shall in no way do harm to any of Allah's creatures in general and to Muslims in particular by giving way to his passions, neither with his hands, nor with his tongue, nor by any other means; .

Fifthly, that in every state whether of joy or of sorrow, of prosperity or adversity, he shall prove himself faithful to Allah and shall be ready to endure every kind of insult and pain, and that in the hour of misfortune he shall not turn away from God but shall rather draw closer to Him;

Sixthly, that he shall not follow vulgar customs and shall guard against all evil inclinations, and shall submit himself completely to the authority of the Holy Quran and shall make the Word of Allah and the practice of the Holy Prophet the guiding principles of his life;

Seventhly, that he shall discard pride and haughtiness and shall pass his days in humility, lowliness, courtesy and meekness;

Eighthly that he shall hold his religion and the dignity and welfare of Islam dearer than his life, wealth and children and everything else;

Ninthly, that he shall, for the sake of Allah, have sympathy for Allah's creatures and shall, to the best of his ability, devote his natural talents towards the promotion of their welfare; and

Tenthly, that he shall establish a relationship of brotherhood with me on condition of obeying me in all good things and adhere to it till the day of his death and that this relationship shall be of such high order that the like of it shall not be found in any worldly relationship either of family or between master and servant. (Pamphlet dated 12th January 1889)

As I have repeatedly said in the past these conditions of *bay'at* should be held handy and meditated upon almost every day to such an extent that it becomes second nature to us. These days almost all young persons have a smart phone. This text can be easily uploaded on phones and read almost every morning as a reminder and at night one might review how much one

has been able to fulfill these conditions and try to make improvements every day. Eventually you will see how you would become better and better every day and you will be on the track to fulfill your most important objective in life.

May Allah enable each one amongst us to understand well what is the Grand purpose of our life and may He enable us to fulfill it. Ameen.